Sino-Indian differences on Sikkim

486. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sino-Indian differences exist over Sikkim and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the justification by China for objecting the joining of Indian Union by Sikkim in 1975;

(c) the effect of Chinese reluctance to recognise Sikkim as part of the Indian Union; and

(d) the efforts being made to resolve the boundary dispute with China which led to Chinese attack on India in 1962?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) China has not yet formally recognized Sikkim as an integral part of India. The official web-site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China states that "The Chinese Government does not recognize India's illegal annexation of Sikkim."

Following the understanding reached during Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2003, the process has been started by which Sikkim will cease to be an issue in India-China relations.

(d) India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through consultations on an equal footing. During Prime Minister's visit to China, it was agreed that pending an ultimate solution, the two countries would work together to maintain peace and tranquility in their border areas, and continue to implement the agreements signed for this purpose, including the clarification of the Line of Actual Control. The two sides agreed to each appoint a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement.

Consensus on Tibet in talks with China

†487. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.